



Natural Landscaping:

Attracting Wildlife with Native Plants

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City of
Bloomington
Environmental
Commission

From Butterflies to Orioles...

Native plants will not only add beauty to your yard, but also will attract desirable wildlife. For instance, numerous native plants attract butterflies, moths, or birds like hummingbirds and orioles. In the boxes below, plants that attract butterflies and moths are outlined in green, and plants that attract hummingbirds and orioles are outlined in yellow.

PERENNIALS

- Black-eyed Susan— *Rudbeckia hirta*
- Swamp Milkweed— *Asclepias incarnata*
- Butterflyweed— *Asclepias tuberosa*
- Common Milkweed— *Asclepias syriaca*
- Turtlehead— *Chelone glabra*
- Purple Coneflower— *Echinacea purpurea*
- Joe-Pye Weed— *Eupatorium maculatum*
- Dense Blazing Star— *Liatris spicata*
- Bergamot— *Monarda fistulosa*
- Gray Goldenrod— *Solidago nemoralis*
- Stiff Goldenrod— *Solidago rigida*
- Wild Strawberry— *Fragaria virginiana*
- Blue Flag Iris— *Iris shrevei*
- Cardinal Flower— *Lobelia cardinalis*
- Purple Prairie Clover— *Petalostemum purpureum*
- Blue Phlox— *Phlox divaricata*

TREES

- Flowering Dogwood— *Cornus florida*
- Pagoda Dogwood— *Cornus alternifolia*
- Staghorn Sumac— *Rhus typhina*

SHRUBS

- New Jersey Tea— *Ceanothus americanus*
- Buttonbush— *Cephalanthus occidentalis*
- Pussy Willow— *Salix discolor*
- Spicebush— *Lindera benzoin*
- Virginia Rose— *Rosa virginiana*
- Gray Dogwood— *Cornus racemosa*
- Nannyberry— *Viburnum lentago*

More than 200 butterfly species are known in the Midwest. Common butterflies in Bloomington are monarchs, red-spotted purple, spicebush swallowtail, red admirals, and several fritillaries. The best butterfly nectar plant may be milkweed, but all of the butterfly plants listed at left should attract them.

Photo: Richard Cummins

Moths can be just as beautiful as butterflies. While many are active at night, some are active during the day. As a rule of thumb, butterflies fold their wings vertically after landing while moths hold their wings horizontally. The five-spotted hawk moth is active at dusk and is one of the moths you may attract to your yard.

Photo: Paul Opler

Many of the plant species listed above will also provide hummingbirds and orioles with nectar. These and other birds also depend heavily on insects. Eliminate pesticide use in your yard for the benefit of these birds and other wildlife. Eliminating pesticides will create a healthier environment for pets and humans too!

Orioles that you may attract to your yard include the Northern and Orchard orioles. Northern orioles, also known as Baltimore orioles, are attracted to the nectar of red and orange blooms. Orioles not only eat nectar, but also fruits and insects.

Photo: Arthur Morris, Birds as Art

People are often fascinated by the hummingbird, which is our smallest native bird. Look for the common Ruby-throated Hummingbird from April-October and the rare Rufous Hummingbird from August-January. Completing up to 200 wingbeats each second, the hummingbird requires half its weight in food and eight times its weight in liquids. Hopefully, hummingbirds will find ample food in your yard.

Photo: Ralph W. Scott, Rainforest Alliance

TREES

- Northern Catalpa— *Catalpa speciosa*
- Eastern Redbud— *Cercis canadensis*
- Green Hawthorn— *Crataegus viridis*

PERENNIALS

- Columbine— *Aquilegia canadensis*
- Larkspur— *Delphinium tricorne*
- Great Blue Lobelia— *Lobelia siphilitica*
- Summer Phlox— *Phlox paniculata*
- Virginia Bluebells— *Martensia virginica*
- Trumpet Creeper— *Campis radicans*

Native Grasses

Consider planting native grasses, which provide excellent habitat for animals, including food for caterpillars and other insects, birds, rabbits and deer. Grasses may take a few years to establish and require long-term maintenance.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Insect	Caterpillar	Song-bird	Game-bird	Small animal	Deer
Big Bluestem	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	X	X	X			X
Bottlebrush Grass	<i>Elymus hystrix</i>		X				
Indian Grass	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	X					X
June Grass	<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	X					X
Little Bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>		X	X		X	Resistant
Prairie Dropseed	<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>			X		X	Resistant
Sideoats Grama	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	X		X	X		X
Switch Grass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	X	X	X	X		X

Summer, Fall and Winter Wildlife Food Plants

From plants in bloom to emerging insects, there are plenty of food options for wildlife in the spring. Providing summer, winter and fall food plants will allow you to enjoy watching wildlife all year long. In the summer, fruits and berries will feed various birds, such as bluebirds and indigo buntings, as well as small mammals and butterflies. Fall food is important for migratory birds needing to build up fat reserves. Animals that remain all year, such as the Northern cardinal or Carolina chickadee, also need to increase fat reserves to survive the winter. Food is scarcest in the winter, so providing winter food plants in your yard is especially important. If you have limited space in your yard, winter food plants are the most essential plants to consider for wildlife.

SHRUBS	<u>Summer</u>	<u>Fall</u>	<u>Winter</u>
	♦Downy Serviceberry (<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>) ♦Shadblow Serviceberry (<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>) ♦Wild Plum (<i>Prunus americana</i>) ♦Highbush Blueberry (<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>) ♦Sand Cherry (<i>Prunus pumila</i>)	♦Gray Dogwood (<i>Cornus racemosa</i>) ♦Winterberry Holly (<i>Ilex verticillata</i>) ♦Arrowwood (<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>)	♦American Highbush Cranberry (<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>) ♦Wahoo (<i>Euonymus atropurpurea</i>) ♦Coralberry (<i>Symphoricarpos orbiculatus</i>) ♦Nannyberry (<i>Viburnum lentago</i>) ♦Fragrant Sumac (<i>Rhus aromatica</i>)

MAST PLANTS

The following long-lived native shrubs and trees produce fall and winter food or “mast” for many animals including deer, turkey, squirrel, ducks and gamebirds.

SHRUBS

- American Hazelnut– *Corylus americana*

TREES

- Ohio Buckeye– *Aesculus glabra*
- Yellow Buckeye– *Aesculus octandra*
- Red Buckeye– *Aesculus pavia*
- Bitternut Hickory– *Carya cordiformis*
- Pignut Hickory– *Carya glabra*
- Shagbark Hickory– *Carya ovata*
- Mockernut Hickory– *Carya tomentosa*
- American Beech– *Fagus grandifolia*
- Black Walnut– *Juglans nigra*
- White Oak– *Quercus alba*
- Scarlet Oak– *Quercus coccinea*
- Shingle Oak– *Quercus imbricaria*
- Bur Oak– *Quercus macrocarpa*
- Pin Oak– *Quercus palustris*
- Chestnut Oak– *Quercus prinus*
- Red Oak– *Quercus rubra*
- Shumard Oak– *Quercus shumardii*
- Black Oak– *Quercus velutina*

PERENNIALS

Summer

- ♦Wild Strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*)

Fall

- ♦Stiff Sunflower (*Helianthus pauciflorus*)
- ♦Woodland Sunflower (*Helianthus divaricatus*)
- ♦Tall Sunflower (*Helianthus giganteus*)
- ♦Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)

Winter

- ♦American Bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*)

TREES

Summer

- ♦Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)

Fall

- ♦Pagoda Dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*)

Winter

- ♦Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)
- ♦Green Hawthorn (*Crataegus viridis*)

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